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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Loving Father, You know us as we really are. You see beneath the polished surface of our projected adequacy. You know our true needs. The great need, at the core of all our needs is to truly experience Your presence. We need You, dear God. It is our most profound joy to know that the desire to know, love, and serve You today is the result of Your hand upon our shoulders. You motivate the desire to pray because You delight in us when we desire You above all else. More than anything You can give us or do for us, we long to live in communion with You. Our spirituality is what we do with our yearning. In this moment of honest prayer, we turn over to You the longings of our hearts; everything from our most personal anxieties to our relationships and responsibilities. How wonderful it is to know that You have motivated us to pray because You have solutions and resolutions for our most complex problems.

Bless the Senators today with an engaging conversation with You. Thank You that You are ready to give the guidance, wisdom, and vision that will be required in each hour. Go before them to show the way, reside in their minds to provide power, and replenish their assurance that what You have called them to do is the people's business in Government. This is the day You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in You! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LINCOLN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3009, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that act, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, today, as the Chair has announced, we are once again on the Andean trade legislation. We have a vote tonight at 6

o'clock on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to this legislation. The time until 6 p.m. is equally divided between the proponents and opponents on the motion to proceed. The reports we have received are that it does not appear there will be a lot of debate prior to this vote tonight, although there are a few Members who wish to speak. There will be about 5 hours for debate, and it appears at this time that there will not be a lot of speakers.

Unless my friend from Wyoming has a statement, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask that the time for the quorum call be charged equally against both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I wish to speak on the bill before us.

At 6 o'clock, as my friend from Nevada mentioned, we will be voting on the motion to proceed to one of the more important bills before us this year. I am glad we have some opportunity to talk about this legislation.

H.R. 3009 is the vehicle on which the Senate will be voting as to whether or not the Senate will proceed to three bills—the Trade Promotion Act, the Trade Adjustment Act, and the extension of the Generalized System of Preferences. I wish to focus on what I believe to be the more critical issue, and that is the Trade Promotion Act.

This is often called fast track. It is designed to give us a system to bargain, if you will, and negotiate treaties with other countries, hopefully to the benefit of the United States. I believe it is very critical to our economic future.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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